



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2011

MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

FACT SHEET

CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO CONVERT METHANE INTO MONEY

Today, a private company began building a \$45 million facility that will convert methane gas at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant into natural gas, the kind of gas that provides power for our everyday lives.

There is a long list of reasons why the public should care about this project.

First, it allows the city to make money off the methane produced at the wastewater facility. The city expects to make about \$300,000 a year over the next ten years by selling our methane to BioFuels Energy LLC, the company overseeing the project.

BioFuels, based in Encinitas, develops innovative renewable energy projects utilizing waste resources including landfills and wastewater treatment facilities.

Methane is the gas byproduct of the wastewater treatment process. By collecting this methane, the new facility will also reduce the city's impact on the environment. Not only that, but once this methane is captured and converted into natural gas, some of that gas will be used to help power the city's South Bay water reclamation plant as well as two UCSD facilities.

The city will save roughly \$80,000 a year in energy costs at the South Bay plant. The city also expects an additional half million dollars in revenues over the next five years as a result of the contract with BioFuels.

"In short, this new facility is a win for everyone, starting with the taxpayers," said Mayor Jerry Sanders.

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